

of buildings, while exports comprise nearly the whole of the forest produce exploited annually, only a small quantity of timber and firewood being consumed locally. In South Thana about 75 per cent. of the produce is annually exported and imports are practically nil.

232. In West Khándesh the duty on foreign timber has again fallen considerably this year, and a glance at the figures given below for the last five years will show that there has been a constant decline in the revenue realized under this heading:—

						Rs.
1887-88...	...	...	...	...	...	16,065
1888-89...	...	...	...	...	...	18,307
1889-90...	...	...	...	...	...	15,051
1890-91...	...	...	...	...	...	13,854
1891-92...	...	...	...	...	...	9,374

233. The Divisional Forest Officer considers that the falling off is due partly to the fact of the Native States at last awakening to the reality that forests are not inexhaustible, and to their instituting closures in consequence; this is not to be regretted in the interests of the country at large. If the markets of West Khándesh were not glutted by the immature timber of Native States, there would be no difficulty in working the Khándesh forests to greater profit. This year imports consisted of timber, fuel and bamboos only, which found a ready sale in West and East Khándesh. The exports of the district consist, for the main part, of "Rosha oil," (grass-oil) which goes to Bombay, and from there the best sort is exported to Europe. A little teak is exported from Khándesh down the Tapti river to the markets in the Baroda State.

234. In East Khándesh the import trade of timber, firewood, charcoal and bamboos declined slightly during a portion of the year, owing to the forests in foreign territory having again been closed against teak and tiwas exploitation; and consequently the amount of import duty collected was Rs. 14,176 against Rs. 14,625 in the preceding year.

235. The following statement shows a comparison of the quantity of different descriptions of dutiable material imported into this division during the year under report and the one preceding it:—

Loads.			1890-91.				1891-92.			
			Teak, &c., Timber.	Firewood.	Charcoal.	Bamboos.	Teak, &c., Timber.	Firewood.	Charcoal.	Bamboos.
Cart ...	...	No.	3,444	9,838	44	875	3,628	7,739	42	1,375
Head..	...	"	100	...	648	3,242	590	5	238	1,865
Bullock	...	"	6,426	...	1,287	21,026	5,840	...	920	19,642
Buffalo	...	"	3	...	2	5	...	...	...	13
Donkey	...	"	51	3	...	...	29	...	4	...

CHAPTER V.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

236. The following statement shows the financial results of the year under report, as compared with those of the preceding year:—

Year.	Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.			Net Revenue.
		A.—Conservancy and Works.	B.—Establishments.	Total.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1890-91 ...	12,57,501 15 3	2,47,857 10 7	4,87,846 15 8	7,35,704 10 3	5,21,797 5 0
1891-92 ...	13,62,427 10 11	2,32,321 2 4	4,85,072 14 3	7,17,394 0 7	6,45,033 10 4
Increase ...	1,04,925 11 8	.....	.....	.....	1,23,236 5 4
Decrease ...	.....	15,536 8 3	2,774 1 5	18,310 9 8	...

237. The revenue realized during 1890-91 was up to then the highest on record produced by the forests of the Northern Circle, but the actual collections of the year of the present report have considerably surpassed that total, for they show a net revenue of Rs. 6,45,033 against Rs. 5,21,797 in the year preceding, and thus the financial prosperity of the Circle has been more than maintained.

238. The distribution of receipts among the several divisions of the Circle, as compared with the collections of the preceding year, is exhibited in the following statement:—

No.	Division.	1890-91.	1891-92.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Direction ...	.....	3 8 0	3 8 0	.....
2	North Thána ...	3,05,473 6 3	3,05,430 8 11	.....	42 13 4
3	South Thána ...	1,53,716 2 8	1,27,438 8 1	.....	26,277 10 7
4	East Khándesh ...	1,17,333 7 6	1,50,811 4 2	33,477 12 8	.....
5	West Khándesh ...	1,64,872 7 3	2,02,943 3 5	38,070 12 2	.....
6	Násik ...	90,998 3 2	1,22,513 6 10	31,515 3 8	.....
7	Ahmednagar ...	55,412 12 1	57,410 12 10	1,998 0 9	.....
8	Poona ...	99,197 15 3	95,189 1 2	.....	4,008 14 1
9	Sátára ...	70,664 3 6	88,641 12 10	17,977 9 4	.....
10	Sholápur ...	21,613 4 4	30,640 12 7	9,027 8 3	.....
11	Surat ...	1,11,419 15 0	1,04,299 4 4	.....	7,120 10 8
12	Panch Maháls ...	66,799 4 3	77,102 15 9	10,303 11 6	.....
13	Working Plans ...	0 14 0	2 8 0	1 10 0	.....
	Total ...	12,57,501 15 3	13,62,427 10 11	1,42,375 12 4	37,450 0 8

239. North Thána has practically returned the same amount of revenue as it did last year. The decrease of Rs. 26,277 against South Thána is due to—

(a) the cessation of sales to the Tánsa dam and duct contractors of timber, &c., which they required for their works, and which in former years, when the works were in progress, produced large sums of revenue;

(b) the loss of the Karjat and Khálápur ranges which have been transferred to the Kolába Collectorate of the Southern Circle, whereby the revenue of these two ranges, which was included in the figures for 1890-91 of the Northern Circle, and amounted then to Rs. 15,946, has been transferred and credited to the Southern Circle; and

(c) the sales of coupes not having realised as high a sum as was anticipated, the prices being low generally.

240. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 3,454 remained outstanding at the close of the year, owing to the failure on the part of a contractor to work up to his agreement. All these causes assisted towards decreasing the revenue of this division during the year.

241. The increase of Rs. 33,477 over the actuals of past year against the East Khándesh Division is mostly due to the increasing demand for grass and grazing, which, with the introduction of the new grazing rules, carefully and closely supervised, produced excellent results. The receipts from this source only exceeded the collections of the year preceding by Rs. 31,505. In the West Khándesh Division, likewise, the receipts have gone up by a large sum of Rs. 38,070; the successful sales of timber and fuel, as also the augmented receipts from grass and grazing, have contributed to this result. All the firewood that was on hand from last year in this division was also sold during the year, there being a large demand for it for the use of steam cotton mills, which are annually increasing in number, and are to be found now near almost every railway station as well as at large towns in the district.

242. The Násik Division likewise represents an increase of Rs. 31,515, mainly to be found under the heads IIa and IIb. The former exhibits Rs. 16,672 in excess of the past year's revenue, owing to more standing timber in Málki numbers in Peint and Dindori Ranges having been sold for exploitation by contractors than was anticipated, while the excess of Rs. 10,958 under the latter is due to the closer supervision of grazing arrangements under the new grazing

rules. Receipts under IIe have also contributed Rs. 1,151 towards this increase, as hirdas, which were collected on the share system, and the proceeds of which are credited to this sub-head, have commanded higher rates this year than last.

243. The increase of Rs. 998 in the Ahmednagar division is also ascribed to the new system of grazing having been worked under careful supervision.

244. The divisions of Poona and Surat show small decreases of Rs. 4,008 and Rs. 7,120 respectively, in comparison with the actuals of the past year; in the former the decrease is to be found under II d, owing to larger areas of valuable kurans (forest reserves) having been placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department, free of charge, than during 1890-91; while in the Surat division the falling off is due to the failure on the part of the contractor of green teak contract to pay in the full amount of his purchase money into the treasury before the close of the year.

245. In all the other divisions of the Northern Circle, the collections of the year are in excess of those of the year preceding. In the Sátára division the increase of Rs. 17,977 is due to a larger quantity of timber and fuel having been disposed of departmentally than was anticipated, and to better prices having ruled the market in respect of hirdas, the fruit of terminalia chebula, collected departmentally. Revenue from grass and grazing has also contributed Rs. 5,640 towards the increase. The Sholápur division, in like manner, exhibits an excess of Rs. 9,027, mainly through better realizations under firewood, I and II, and through better prices obtained at auction sales for grass and grazing.

246. In the Panch Maháls division Rs. 10,303 are in excess of the actuals of the past year, and this increase is due to keener competition at auction sales of standing teak, with the realization of better prices. The recent introduction of certain restrictions on indiscriminate cutting in Báriya, and the influence of the new railway on the district generally, have led to a brisker demand for timber and other forest produce from the State forests.

247. The expenditure under A Conservancy and Works on the other hand, amounting to Rs. 2,32,321, is less than the actuals of the past year by Rs. 15,536, and its distribution among the several divisions of the Northern Circle, as compared with that of the year preceding, is shown in the statement given below :—

Number.	Division.	1890-91.	1891-92.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Direction ...	.....	567 4 0	567 4 0	.....
2	North Thána ...	14,938 7 7	22,428 10 5	7,490 2 10	.....
3	South Thána ...	37,983 0 11	28,531 2 11	.....	9,451 14 0
4	East Khándesh ...	11,487 8 8	16,578 3 5	5,090 10 9	.....
5	West Khándesh ...	22,919 8 11	22,997 8 4	77 15 5	.....
6	Násik ...	10,618 9 6	15,946 8 5	5,327 14 11	.....
7	Ahmednagar ...	14,254 7 8	13,314 9 6	.....	939 14 2
8	Poona ...	44,851 1 11	37,584 5 0	.....	7,266 12 11
9	Sátára ...	16,658 15 10	18,275 11 1	1,616 11 3	.....
10	Sholápur ...	5,638 13 11	6,710 11 4	1,071 13 5	.....
11	Surat ...	48,235 9 2	37,931 6 3	.....	10,364 2 11
12	Panch Maháls ...	3,591 15 10	4,507 15 2	915 15 4	.....
13	Working Plans ...	15,619 6 8	6,947 2 6	.....	9,672 4 2
	Total ...	2,47,857 10 7	2,32,321 2 4	22,158 7 11	37,695 0 2

248. The increase of Rs. 567 against Direction is due to the transfer of this amount from B. III. f. to A. VI. c. Provision for the purchase of a tent for the office of the Conservator was made under B. III. f., but according to the new classification of accounts this charge was debited to A. VI. c., where no provision existed, and hence the increase.

249. The increase of Rs. 7,490 against North Thána is due to expenses incurred in departmental fellings, none of which were undertaken in the previous year, and to larger expenditure on demarcation, including expenses of the Forest Settlement Officer, and protection from fire; while the decrease of Rs. 9,451 in South Thána is due to the transfer of two ranges, Karjat and Khálápur, from the Northern Circle, to the Southern Circle, and to less expenditure

in the Sháhápúr range, where large sums of money were expended during the preceding year in payment of compensation for lands acquired for forests upon the catchment of the Tánša lake.

250. The principal items which have increased the expenditure of the East Khándesh division are to be found under A. I. *b*, A. II. and A. VIII. *b*. The higher expenditure under A. I. *b* is due to the clearing of disforested lands in the Chopdá taluka, as ordered by Government in their Resolution No. 3563, dated 25th May 1891, in the Revenue Department; that under A. II. is in proportion to the large increase under II. *d*. of receipts, whereby larger payments had to be made to village officers in remuneration for collecting from villagers revenue for grass and grazing. Under A. VIII. *b* a sum of Rs. 4,797 was spent for acquiring occupied lands for forests by the Forest Settlement Officer; the expenditure under this subordinate heading during the preceding year had amounted to Rs. 1,703 only. The increase of Rs. 77 against West Khándesh is inconsiderable and calls for no special remarks.

251. Násik represents an excess of Rs. 5,327 over the figures of past year, and this is due to the increased expenditure under A. VIII. *a*, on the erection of special forest boundary-marks, as this work was pushed on with vigor in all the ranges of the division. Large payments of percentages to village officers, for collecting grass revenue consequent to increased receipts from grass and grazing have also, to some extent, augmented the expenditure in this division.

252. On the other hand, the divisions of Ahmednagar and Poona show a decrease of Rs. 939 and Rs. 7,266 respectively, the former due to a smaller outlay on materials for wire-fencing during the year than in the year preceding; while the latter to the debit of a smaller amount on account of the charges on forest surveys than in the year before, and to the abandonment of departmental working under I. *b*. "Firewood" standing in the coupes was sold to contractors for cutting and removal, thereby avoiding departmental expenditure on its account.

253. The increases of Rs. 1,616 and Rs. 1,071 in the Sátára and Sholápúr divisions are due to the larger cuttings of firewood in the former, and to the debit of forest survey charges in the latter. The decrease of Rs. 10,364, on the other hand, in the Surat division, is due to there being no teak fellings in the Lower Dángs, and to the quantity of teak timber carted to the coast being much smaller in comparison with the operations of the preceding year. The small increase of Rs. 915 in the Panch Maháls division is ascribed to large payments of remuneration to village officers under II, and to the payment of compensation, Rs. 673, by the Forest Settlement Officer, while no such payment was made in the year preceding. The decrease of Rs. 9,672 against the Working Plans division is entirely due to the transfer of the cost of pay and travelling allowances of the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, and his office establishments from A. VIII. *c*. to B. I. *b* and *d* and II. *b* and *d*, respectively, while in the year preceding the whole of this cost appeared under A. VIII. *c*.

254. The expenditure under B. Establishments shows a decrease of Rs. 2,774, in comparison with the actuals of the year preceding, and calls for no special explanations, as fluctuations in pay and allowances of officers account for such minor differences. It may, at the same time, be urged that payments to officers of other provinces, which are made in Bombay and which have no connection whatsoever with the expenditure of the Northern Circle, have always increased the expenditure under this head, thereby curtailing the surplus revenue of the Circle. This year Rs. 1,240 have been so debited against Direction.

255. The gross receipts of the forests of the Northern Circle have increased from Rs. 12,57,501-15-3 to Rs. 13,62,427-10-11, at the same time the total expenditure has decreased from Rs. 7,35,704-10-3 to Rs. 7,17,394-0-7, and the net revenue has gone up from Rs. 5,21,799-5-0 to Rs. 6,45,033-10-4. These results have been obtained by no reckless sales of timber and other forest produce; the augmentation of the productive powers of the forests has been as carefully safeguarded as it was possible for the administration to do so; all

fellings have been strictly improvement, to remove the mature, the decayed and the too thickly crowding, so as to give space to promising trees to develop and to make room for a better generation. Revenue has not been the main object of forest management; to serve agriculture by maintaining the integrity of forests upon the higher levels of the country, and by meeting as far as it was possible to do so all reasonable demands of local supply, have been the effort and endeavour of Forest Officers; while at the same time a careful control of expenditure and the realization of a legitimate income from the forests have been studied, concurrent with the augmentation of the capital value of the forests.

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

256. At the commencement of the year the Conservator's camp was in Poona, having come from the Thána districts during the Easter vacation; from thence it went by the Southern Marátha Railway to the Karád range in the Sátára District; and encamping at Ond the Conservator visited the teak and other forests of the range, as well as the coupes of the year about Mhasoli, climbing to the top of the highest peak 3,200 feet above sea level, and he went to the very promising plantation at Chachargaon on the bank of the Koyana river which has been made by forest guards of the beat without any expenditure of Government money, and which contains an advanced growth of teak and other trees. Thunder storms of considerable severity with heavy down-pours of rain occurred almost daily from the 13th to the 17th. The office clerks and heavy camp were sent round by the road *viâ* Karád to Pátan, while the Conservator with a flying camp carried on coolies' heads marched to Yelgaon at the head of the valley; and from there ascended the cross range of hills which forms the divide between the Koyana river drainage on the north and the Wárna river on the south, with a view to prospect for a possible line of road to open out the moist forests upon the crest of eastern slopes of the Sahyádris between the frontiers of the Kolhápúr State and the Mala ghát; and at the same time to inspect these forests which contain a wealth of Hirda trees, and to see "the kumri allotments on the Sátára gháts." From Yelgaon to Bamburwadi of Gud is a stiff climb of 1,000 feet, and from there right up to the Mala ghát a distance of about 40 miles. The country on the top of the hill range is fairly level, presenting "no great engineering difficulties to the construction of a road." There are forest reserves on the plateau, as well as upon the upper drainage slopes of the valleys on either side. To the 27th of April the Conservator was engaged in inspecting the forests at the head waters of the Wárna river, camp being moved almost daily, and considerable distances up and down lofty and steep hills being walked daily; these ever-green forests have improved greatly during the last 7 or 8 years; and the contrast presented between the country they cover, protect and enrich on the one side, and the country of the Ratnágiri district on the western slopes of the Sahyádris, where the forests have been completely shaved, from the vertex to the foot of the western gháts, and on to the sea board, is very striking; and it affords over-whelming testimony to the vital importance in the interests of the country and people of forest conservancy and of a forest department.

257. The Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, Mr. Fry, joined the Conservator's camp at the Mala ghát on the 27th April; and on the 30th the two camps were carried down the hills to Helwak at the head of the Kumbhárli ghát on the Karád and Chiplun cart road, the forests of Patharpunj, Dokhayné, Vaghra and Govara being inspected by the way, and likewise the kumri allotments which are worked on a rotation system, under which kumri must perforce die out if confined to its present sites.

258. After inspecting the forests at the head of the Kumbhárli ghát, and the junglewood rafters which had been brought down from the Dhankal forests to the cart road for sale to cartmen returning with empty carts to the open country, east of the Krishna river, the Conservator marched with a reduced camp up the Koyana valley to Maháleshvar, which place was reached on the 14th. The office camp was sent round by cart road, by way of Sátára to Mahá-